

Chapter II: Public Involvement

Public involvement for this plan was obtained using a variety of methods including personal interviews, a steering committee, public meetings, the county fire council, meetings with the town and city councils of the incorporated communities, and news releases and articles. A public involvement strategy was prepared at the outset of the project.

Public Involvement Strategy for the Plan

Introduction

Carbon County desires to be prepared for any foreseeable natural disaster by involving county residents in developing a plan to document past natural disasters and mitigate and address potential natural disasters. Involvement of knowledgeable county residents in the planning process is essential, and will result in a high quality plan to best prevent and/or prepare the county for potential disasters.

Public Involvement Objectives

- 1) Ensure that all interested parties are aware of and offered the opportunity to participate in the development and review of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Community Wildfire Protection (CWPP) and Mitigation Plan.
- 2) Effectively utilize the expertise available in the existing LEPC.
- 3) Ensure that the final plan reflects the priorities of county residents.

Approach

All meetings of the Steering Committee and Fire Council will be widely publicized so that any interested individuals or organizations have the opportunity to participate in the development of the plan. News releases will be provided to the Carbon County News, Laurel Outlook, and the Billings Gazette.

A Steering Committee will be established to provide critical input to and review of the draft PDM Plan. The Steering Committee will consist of the existing LEPC members plus representatives from city public works, a utility, the insurer of county property, a county school, a subdivision property owners' association, and the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce. Steering Committee meetings will be noticed, open to the public, and the public will be encouraged to attend.

The county Fire Council will provide critical input to and review of the draft Community Wildfire Protection and Mitigation Plan.

If a county website becomes available during the project, a project schedule and draft products will be posted on the website.

Methodology

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will be chartered for three meetings over the course of six months. At the first meeting, the project will be explained, the committee will be asked to recall natural disasters in the county and brainstorm potential natural hazards. The participants will then prioritize the hazards.

At the second meeting, the Steering Committee will identify critical facilities throughout the county, discuss vulnerabilities and potential losses, and brainstorm mitigation goals.

At the third meeting, the Steering Committee will develop mitigation objectives, actions, and/or projects. One meeting each of the Steering Committee will be held in Red Lodge, Joliet, and Bridger. The committee will be asked to review and comment on the draft plan once completed.

County Fire Council

The existing county Fire Council will meet twice to focus specifically on the Community Wildfire Protection and Mitigation sections of the plan. (The fire protection discipline is also represented on the Steering Committee.) At the first meeting, the council will be briefed about the project, then discuss risks, validate the proposed list of hazards, identify any unique severity factors, and list preparedness capability.

At the second meeting the council will be asked to identify mitigation goals, objectives, and tactics, and will clarify roles and responsibilities. The Fire Council will be asked to review and comment on the draft plan once completed.

Personal Interviews

In addition to utilizing the Steering Committee and the Fire Council, a small number of personal interviews with long-time residents will be conducted to obtain historical information about disasters and hazards in the county.

Table 2.1. Carbon County CWPP/PDM Steering Committee

Name	Representing
Beuchler, Charlie	Joliet EMS, Public Works
Borquin, Lance	LEPC, Sheriff
Boyer, Skip (J. Ballard)	Red Lodge Public Works
Bracjich, Mark	Public Schools
Brown, Albert	County Commission
Chamber of Commerce	Area businesses
Davidson, David	County Commission
DeMars, Kyle	Montana DOT
Dukart, Marvin	Beartooth Electric
Gessling, Richard (Tomicich)	County Mayors
Kastelitz, Tom	Beartooth Insurance
Krum, Darrel	County DES
Kuntz, Tom	RL Fire, County Fire Council, RL Pizza Co
McDowell, Aaron	Red Lodge Ambulance
McGann, Greg	County Planning, Sanitarian
Nelson, Allen	County Planning Board, CD
Overton, John	Grizzly Peak Subdivision
Pearce, Bill	Beartooth Hospital and Health Center
Pringle, Richard	RL Police
Prinkii, John	County Commission
Schiktanz, Linda	American Red Cross
Stewart, Linda	Public Health
Stockwell, Jeff	Forest Service

STEERING COMMITTEE CHARTER
Carbon County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan
September 2004

Purpose

The Carbon County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Steering Committee is being established to advise the preparation of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan by county contractor, Barb Beck. Members will be asked to provide input at three meetings and review the draft plan. The plan is being prepared to make Carbon County disaster resistant and will involve looking at past disasters, prioritizing potential disasters, assessing vulnerability, developing goals, objectives, and actions or projects and prioritizing those projects.

Membership

The Steering Committee is made up of the County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) plus additional representatives. Representatives on the formal LEPC include the county commissioners, city government, local and county law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire departments, disaster and emergency services, public health, county planning, public works, the school system, veterinary medicine, the Beartooth Hospital and Health Center, the Red Cross, and the Forest Service. In addition to the LEPC, the Steering Committee for this project includes representation from an electric utility, subdivision located in the wildland-urban interface, the insurance industry, the chamber of commerce, and the department of transportation.

Commitment/Schedule

Steering Committee members will be asked to participate in three meetings open to the public, between September 2004, and April 2005. The meetings will be held in Red Lodge, Joliet, and Bridger, and will be scheduled from 2 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on a week day.

Public Meetings

The first steering committee/public meeting was held in Red Lodge on September 28. Two weeks prior to the meeting, letters of invitation were mailed to each Steering Committee member and two days prior to the meeting, each Steering Committee member was phoned as a reminder. The Carbon County News printed an article about the meeting on September 16, conveying the fact that the meeting was open to the public and the public was encouraged to attend and participate. Ten individuals attended the meeting. A follow-up article was printed on September 30, detailing the accomplishments of the meeting.

On October 21, a meeting of the Carbon County Fire Council was held in Bridger. Sixteen individuals attended the meeting, representing all five of the incorporated communities in the county, the county fire warden/DES Coordinator, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The participants were briefed on the planning process. They discussed their vision for fire protection for the county. Participants then mapped ignition sources for their areas of protection responsibility indicating the likely ignition source. Finally, attendees identified unique severity factors present in Carbon County. Carbon County News printed a follow-up article on the meeting on October 28, 2004.

The second Steering Committee/public meeting was held in Joliet on December 9. One week prior to the meeting, letters of invitation were mailed to each Steering Committee member. Two days prior to the meeting, all Steering Committee members were phoned with a reminder and a request to send a representative if the primary member was unable to attend. Eighteen people were in attendance at the second meeting, representing county and state DES; public health; town, city and county law enforcement; public schools; county planning board, county conservation district, town and city public works, Beartooth Insurance, Beartooth Electric, and the Red Cross. The meeting was conducted according to an agenda with the following topics covered; recap about what a PDM plan is and why the county is preparing the plan, review of the products from the first meeting, identification of values at risk, and development of preliminary goal statements.

The Carbon County Fire Council met in Bridger on January 20, 2005. Contractor, Beck, presented draft fire goals for approval based upon input from the previous fire council meeting. The goals were finalized and agreed upon. Beck presented the results of the interviews she had conducted with each of the fire chiefs since the previous council meeting. The group brainstormed goals for the CWPP. Finally, Barb explained what the next steps would be and encouraged participants to think about what projects would be necessary to reach the identified goals.

The third Steering Committee/public meeting was held on February 15, 2005 in Bridger. Prior to the meeting each Steering Committee member received a letter of invitation and immediately prior to the meeting, each received a reminder phone call. At the meeting, the planning process was explained, goal statements from the previous meeting were reviewed, and objectives and projects were identified under each goal statement. Projects were then given general prioritization by the participants. During the meeting wrap-up, Beck explained the schedule for finalizing the document and obtaining public comment. The final project ranking for non-fire projects was completed by each Steering Committee member individually. The individual rankings were then scored and averaged to determine the final project ranking of high, medium, or low.

Fire projects were initially ranked by the Chair of the Fire Council in cooperation with the contractor, then reviewed, adjusted and approved by the entire council at their meeting on April 21, 2005, in Bearcreek. The contractor did not attend this final Fire Council meeting. There was no sign-in sheet or official notes.

Briefings

The county commissioners were briefed on the status of the project on December 23, 2004. At that meeting the commissioners signed letters to each of the five mayors encouraging their involvement in the planning process.

The mayor of each community was contacted through these letters signed by the county commissioners. The letters informed each of the five mayors about the progress on the plan to date, explained that incorporated communities would be asked to adopt the plan once completed, and encouraged their involvement in identifying projects.

The mayors and town/city councils of each of the five incorporated communities received a briefing on the draft CWPP/PDM on the following dates.

- Bearcreek: April 6, 2005
- Bridger: April 5, 2005
- Fromberg: April 4, 2005
- Joliet: May 16, 2005
- Red Lodge: April 26, 2005

At the respective council meetings, the contractor explained the purpose of the plan, how and by whom the draft plan had been developed, and what the goals and projects were. The contractor answered questions about the plan and planning process. Input was requested from the elected officials of each community and the contractor explained that the communities were signatories to the plan in addition to the county. Input received from the local governments was incorporated into the draft plan.

COUNCIL BRIEFING PAPER CORRESPONDENCE



Fromberg Mayor, Council, and Public Works Director, April 4, 2005

Carbon County Community Wildfire Protection and Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan Mayor/Council Briefing, April-May 2005

What is a CWPP/PDM Plan?

A CWPP/PDM plan is being prepared to make the county and its communities more disaster-resistant and less vulnerable to property damage and loss of life from a natural disaster. The plan is being funded by the Bureau of Land Management with a small county match, and will meet requirements of the National Fire Plan and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.) Once the plan is done, the county will be eligible to compete for funds to carry out projects identified in the plan that are beyond local resources, and will also be eligible to receive post-disaster assistance if a disaster occurs. The plan must be adopted by the county and each incorporated community in the county that wishes to participate and/or be eligible for grant funds or disaster assistance.

What is in this plan and how was it prepared?

The plan contains hazard assessments that describe historical occurrences and vulnerability to hazards, and estimates the potential losses should a disaster occur. The plan also contains mitigation goals, objectives, and projects to address the hazards that have been identified. The plan has been prepared by a contractor, Barb Beck, under the guidance of a Steering Committee. Five public meetings have been held with either the Steering Committee or the County Fire Council to gather input for the draft plan. These meetings were held in Belfry, Bridger, Joliet, and Red Lodge.

What is the schedule for this plan?

The planning process was initiated in the fall of 2004. Research has been completed and a draft document will be available in May. The draft plan will be placed in libraries and local government offices for public review. Comments will be accepted for 30 days. Following the 30-day comment period, the plan will be finalized and the incorporated communities and county will be asked to adopt it. The state Disaster and Emergency Services division will review the plan, ensure that it meets legal requirements, and forward it to FEMA for final approval.

How do we and our constituents offer input?

Input is welcome at any time during the process until the plan is adopted by the governing bodies. The availability of the draft will be announced in the Carbon County News and comments can be made by any interested individual, organization, or government on the draft. Comments can be submitted by phone, in writing, or by e-mail to Barb Beck, P.O. Box 870, Red Lodge, 59068 or barbbeck@cablemt.net, or 446-3628.

**Carbon County CWPP/PDM Plan
Summary of Mayor and Council Briefings
May 2005**

Town of Fromberg: April 4, 2005

Mayor, Rene Shanks, Council Members, Julie Jones, Richard Anderson, and Bill Rivers present. Also present, Clerk, Tracy McNeely and Public Works Director, Mike McNeely plus two citizens.

The council was briefed on status of the planning process and provided a one-page briefing paper. The council suggested a project under goal 4 to address mosquito problem and prevent West Nile Virus and informed the contractor that they would be participating in a flood plain study with FEMA.

Town of Bridger: April 5, 2005

Mayor, Bill Kroll, Council Members, Ken Gomer, Tonya Davidson, Herman Miller, and Randy Novakovich present. Also present Clerk, Deanna Hay, Public Works Director, Tim Goldsberry, the police chief, and 13 citizens.

The council was briefed on status of the planning process and provided a one-page briefing paper. The council suggested a project to improve radio communications.

Town of Bearcreek: April 6, 2005

Mayor, Pitts DeArmond was absent. Council members Pat Cenis, Cyrus Murfitt, and T.J. Swanson were present. Also present, Clerk, Jane Swanson-Webb, Public Works Director, Dean Webb, and 2 citizens.

The council was briefed on status of the planning process and provided a one-page briefing paper. The council suggested a project to clean out a ditch above and to the north of town to prevent flash flooding.

City of Red Lodge: April 26, 2005

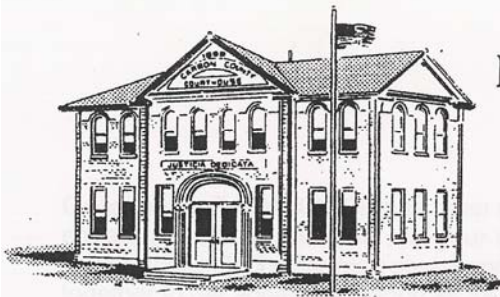
Mayor, Richard Gessling, Council Members Tera Reynolds, Betsy Scanlin, Doug Carpenter, Miriam Lockman, Glory Mahan, and Bill Bullock present. Also present, Clerk Debbie Tomicich, and 24 citizens.

The council was briefed on status of the planning process and provided a one-page briefing paper. The council was asked by contractor to review projects and provide input over next two months. Beck will bring draft and final documents back through Emergency Services Committee.

Town of Joliet: May 16, 2005

Mayor, Toni Gauger, and four council members, Craig Olson, LaRue Schara, Betty S. Steinmetz, Dave Engel were present. Also present, Clerk Judy Swan, Police Chief, Nick Kisch, and 6 citizens.

Joliet had experienced serious flash flooding due to saturated groundwater in the previous week. Citizens and town public works personnel responded. Only minor damage and no injuries resulted. The council was briefed on the status of the planning process and the five goals, and provided a one-page briefing paper. Citizens asked that oil and gas pipelines be considered under the hazamat goal, but had no specific project recommendations. The mayor reported the town had not been contacted by FEMA for a floodplain study. The town does not have a sandbag stockpile.



BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

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Robert DeArmond
Mayor, Town of Bearcreek
P.O. Box 1836
Bearcreek, MT. 59007

December 23, 2004

Dear Pitts:

As you may be aware, Carbon County is in the process of developing a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan or PDM/CWPP. The county is preparing this plan with the help of our contractor, Barb Beck, on behalf of the county and its five incorporated communities. The reasons for the plan are to make the county more disaster-resistant, to remain eligible for post-disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the event of a natural disaster, and to be eligible for project funds to carry out projects identified in the plan. To be accepted by the state of Montana and FEMA, both the county and all of the incorporated communities must approve the plan.

Two Steering Committee/public planning meetings were held this fall, the first in Red Lodge and the second in Joliet. At those meetings, natural hazards and critical infrastructure were identified, and goals were drafted. A Steering Committee consisting of the County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and other stakeholders is guiding the process, however, we want to ensure that each incorporated community has the opportunity to have projects included in the plan. And in fact, FEMA requires that each party to the plan have projects specifically identified.

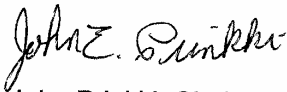
A third meeting of the Steering Committee open to the public (all committee meetings are open to the public), the meeting to finalize the goals, and identify and prioritize projects, is planned for sometime in February in Bridger. The Steering Committee members will receive letters of invitation and the meeting will be noticed in the Carbon County News. We hope that your representative(s) on the Steering Committee will be able to attend and bring forward any projects you would like to see considered for future funding. In the event no one from your community is able to attend, please contact Barb Beck at 446-3628, to provide your input.

December 23, 2004
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Once the draft PDM/CWPP has been assembled, Barb will be requesting time on your council agenda to brief you and your council about the plan and get your input. We believe this project presents a great opportunity for the county and the communities to work together to get additional resources for needed projects.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Barb Beck, at 446-3628, or County DES Coordinator, Darrel Krum, at 446-1038.

Sincerely,



John Prinkki, Chair


Albert Brown

David Davidson

December 1, 2004

Dear Steering Committee/LEPC Member:

Our Pre-Disaster mitigation planning effort is off and running! Thanks to the participation of those of you who were able to attend the first meeting on September 28, we've covered a lot of ground already. At that meeting we talked about past natural disasters, we listed and then prioritized those potential hazards we are most concerned about, and we identified critical facilities. I've enclosed a copy of the meeting notes from that meeting. In the interim, the County Fire Council has met and begun work on the wildland fire hazard portion of the plan.

The primary purpose of the next meeting, the second of three for the Steering Committee/LEPC, is to develop a set of goals that will help the county become more disaster resistant. We'll also get started on actions or projects we can do to move towards realizing the goals. The second meeting will take place in the Carbon County Hospitality Room in Joliet on Thursday, December 9. The meeting will start at 2 p.m. and end no later than 4:00.

With your involvement, Carbon County will have a plan that will help protect our citizens and our property from the inevitable natural disasters. We greatly appreciate your time and your participation in this important effort and hope to see you at the meeting. If you are personally unable to attend the meeting, it is critical to the effort that you send someone to participate who can represent you.

If you have any questions, please contact Carbon County Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator, Darrell Krum at 446-1038, or contractor, Barb Beck at 446-3628.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lance Borquin

Lance Borquin
Carbon County Sheriff
Chair, LEPC

enclosure

February 9, 2005

Dear LEPC/Steering Committee Member:

The final meeting of the process to prepare the pre-disaster mitigation plan has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, at 2 p.m., in Bridger. We'll hold the meeting at the fire hall.

At this meeting, we'll be revisiting the goal statements we developed in December in Joliet, and then working on objectives and projects under each goal. It's very important for our plan that you make the meeting and contribute your ideas. If you are unable to make the meeting, please try and send a representative, and let Darrell know ahead of time (446-1038.) We still need your project ideas whether you make the meeting or not, you can provide these to Barb Beck at 446-3628.

Just to refresh your memory and get you started thinking about projects, the goals we came up with in December are as follows.

- 1) Manage impacts of severe winter storms.
- 2) Build and maintain capability to respond quickly to wind events.
- 3) Minimize the frequency and impact of hazmat incidents.
- 4) Be prepared to respond to floods as a result of dam failure, flash floods, and river flooding (ice jams and seasonal flooding.)
- 5) Reduce and minimize the morbidity, mortality, and economic impact of human and animal disease in Carbon County.

See you in Bridger!

/s/ Lance Borquin

Carbon County Sheriff
Chair, Carbon County LEPC

**MEETING AGENDAS
MEETING NOTES
SIGN-IN SHEETS**



County Fire Council Meeting, Belfry, January 20, 2005

**LEPC/PDM Steering Committee
September 28, 2004
2 p.m. County Courthouse
Meeting Agenda**

Introductions

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning (Beck)

- Planning Process
- Relationship to Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Role of Steering Committee
- Overall timeframes and schedule for the project
- Past Natural Disasters in Carbon County
 - Steering Committee recollections?
 - Other resources to obtain this information?
- Brainstorm potential natural disasters
- Prioritize list of potential disasters
- List critical facilities in the county

2004 Homeland Security Grant Application (Krum)

Updated Draft County EOP (Krum, Beck)

**PDM Plan Steering Committee Meeting
September 28, 2004
County Court House, Red Lodge**

The meeting was noticed in the Carbon County News. Agendas (appended) were mailed to all participants two weeks prior to the meeting and each Steering Committee member was phoned on the morning of the day of the meeting as a reminder.

Barb Beck of Beck Consulting gave a brief presentation explaining what a PDM Plan was and the relationship to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. She passed out a one-page charter for the Steering Committee (appended) with expectations of them and explained the schedule for the planning process.

The participants were then asked to recollect past natural disasters and identify individuals to be interviewed for this information. Several members remembered particularly bad winter storms and these will be researched.

The Steering Committee then brainstormed a list of potential natural and other disasters/hazards in the county. This was followed by a dot voting exercise to identify which of the potential disasters were of most concern to them now and into the future.

- Major snowstorms (8 votes)
- Wildfire (7 votes)
- Wind events (5 votes)
- Hazmat incidents (4 votes)
- Flood (3 votes)
- Collapse of underground mine workings (1 vote)
- Failure of Glacier, Cooney or Mystic Lake Dams (1 vote)
- Human or livestock disease (1 vote)
- Oil well fire
- High pressure oil and gas line leaks/punctures
- Seismic event
- Volcanic ash fallout
- Avalanche
- Rock slide
- Slumping and subsidence
- Drought
- Terrorism

The Steering Committee then looked at the top five vote getters and added human or livestock disease. They then went through a history, probability, and consequences rating exercise. The thresholds for the rating follow the results listed in table form.

Carbon County Potential Hazard Ratings

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>History</i>	<i>Probability</i>	<i>Likely Consequences</i>
Major Snowstorm	High	Moderate	Low
Wildfire	High	Moderate-High	High
Wind Event	High	Moderate-High	Low
Hazmat Incident	High	Low	Moderate
Flood	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Human/Animal Disease	High	High	Moderate

Hazard Rating Thresholds

History

Low: 0 to 1 major incidents in the last 100 years
 Moderate: 2 to 3 major incidents in the past 100 years
 High: 4 or more major incidents in the past 100 years

Probability

Low: 0 to 1 major incidents in a 5-year period
 Moderate: 2 to 9 major incidents in a 5-year period
 High: 10 or more incidents in a 5-year period

Likely Consequences (not worst case)

Low: Property damage less than \$500,000, no serious injury or loss of human life
 Moderate: Property damage \$500,000 to \$ 1 million and/or loss of human life
 High: Loss of multiple lives and/or property damage greater than \$ 1 million

Finally, the Steering Committee brainstormed critical facilities for continuing government operations and protecting public health and safety in the event of a disaster.

Critical Facilities in Carbon County

- Beartooth Hospital and Health Center
- Municipal watersheds
- Fire Department buildings
- County courthouse and dispatch center
- City and Town Halls
- Communications system infrastructure (repeaters and cell towers)
- Telephone line into Red Lodge (Qwest building)
- County administration building
- Edgar oil and gas main
- Express, Exxon, Williston Basin, and Cenex oil pipelines
- Dry Creek Natural Gas Compressor Station
- Natural gas stations in each community
- Nursing homes
- Water and sewer treatment facilities
- Schools
- Forest Service building
- Cooney Dam
- Four clinics
- Bridger Auto Electric Substation
- Railroad infrastructure (?) critical to out of county interests
- State highways especially the bridges on Hwy 212 at Joliet , Hwy 310 at Rockvale, and the highway overpass over the railroad tracks south of Bridger
- Veterinarian offices (Red Lodge (2), Bridger (1), Roberts (1)).

CARBON COUNTY PDM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
September 28, 2004 Carbon County Courthouse

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail address
RICHARD TRINGALE	RED LODGE PD	446-3672	redlodgepdmtd@hotmail.com
Tom Kuntz	Red Lodge FD	446-3333	firechief@montana.net
Jeff Stockwell	DZ USFS	446-2103	jstockwell@fs.fed.us
Philip [unclear]	CCD	445-1332	
Darrel M Krum	DES	446-1038	dkrum@co.carbon.mt.us
Linda Skumort	Piedie Hall	962-9116	lkrtwo@montana.net
Tom Pieger	CCSO	446-1234	
	Beartooth		
Marvin Dukart	Elec	446-2310	Marvind@starband.net
Shawn Mains	Montana Dept. of Transportation	446-2811	
Jim Hunt	MDT Red Lodge Tire	446-2811	
Bub Beck	Beck Cons.		

**CARBON COUNTY FIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY FIRE PLAN MEETING AGENDA
October 21, 2004
Bridger, Montana**

Introductions

**Current Planning Efforts
PDM vs. Community Fire Plan**

Goals of a Community Fire Plan

**What's in a Community Fire Plan?
How does this differ from our existing county fire plan?**

Develop a vision for Carbon County with respect to wildland fire

**Discussion and input
Ignition Profile-map work by participants
Unique Severity Factors-map work by participants
Values to be Protected
Preparedness reporting**

Overall schedule and next steps

**Carbon County Fire Council
Community Fire Plan Meeting
Bridger, Montana
October 21, 2004**

Background and Current Planning Efforts

Barb Beck explained what a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is, why the county is doing one, and what the benefits of completing the plan will be. She also explained what a community wildfire plan is, how this plan is different from the existing County Fire Plan, and that the primary goal of the community wildfire plan is to have the “community” working across all ownerships and jurisdictions determine what their highest priorities are for addressing wildfire issues and how they wish to go about it in the form of projects and actions. The Fire Council will serve as the technical resource for preparation of the fire plan, providing information, coming up with the priorities, and reviewing the draft plan to ensure that it meets the county’s needs.

In general, the contents of a Community Wildfire plan include; an introduction, documentation of the planning process, a characteristics and risk assessment, treatments and mitigation activities, and roles and responsibilities. The risk assessment will address risks, hazards, values to be protected, and protection capability. The treatments and mitigation activities will be a combination of county-wide actions and community and/or subdivision specific projects. The priorities that result from the planning process will guide future work in the urban interface for the appropriate state and federal agencies.

Vision for Carbon County

The group offered up the following key words to be used to develop a vision statement. Barb will prepare a draft vision for the council to review at the next meeting.

- Wildland urban interface
- Safe ingress and egress
- Managed fuels
- Managed incidents
- Defensible space
- Safe communities
- New developments meet requirements
- Public and firefighter safety
- Healthy ecosystems
- Standardized, integrated policies
- Coordinated integrated response
- Mutual aid
- Insurance Service Organization (I.S.O.) ratings

Ignition Profile

The participants were asked to indicate on a map those areas that had repeated ignitions and what type of ignitions they were typically. The participants stated that from the standpoint of fire history, the responses of the fire districts had not been reported electronically to the state until the past two years. So, this was not likely to be a productive source of information for fire history.

The Fire Chiefs and the Forest Service placed numbers on the map for their areas to record the types of ignition they had experienced in which locations. The criterion used was 4 or more starts in a 10-year period. The numbers on the map correspond with the following ignition types.

1. Lightning
2. Highways, county and Forest Service roads
3. Railroads
4. Powerlines
5. Equipment use or industrial
6. Developed or dispersed recreation
7. Rural residences
8. Other
9. Escaped controlled burns

Unique Severity Factors in Carbon County

Unique severity factors were defined as “local conditions, human or natural that may occur and contribute to the probability of increased ignitions or extreme fire behavior.”

- Drought mortality-Mt. Maurice
- Drought mortality-Shane Ridge
- Dry cold fronts and wind events
- Steep terrain such as the Main Canyon of Rock Creek
- Mature lodgepole stands along the mountain front
- Rural residences and associated human activities
- Motorized recreation in the Pryor Mountains and Northwestern portion of the Beartooth Ranger District
- Changes in land use
- Events such as the Harley Rodeo and Mountain Man Rendezvous
- Ditch burning in the spring

The Fire Council will work further on the Community Fire Plan at their regularly scheduled meeting on January 20, 2005. Barb will be working with the individual chiefs in the interim on community specific issues.

Attendance Sheet					
Activity <u>Carbon Co PDM/Community Fire Plan</u>					
Location <u>Bridger, MT.</u>		Date(s) <u>10/21/04</u>			
Duration <u>3 hours</u>					
			Agency Use Only		
Name & Title	Affiliation	E-Mail Address & Phone#	H	M	T
Name: <u>Jeff Stockwell</u>	<u>USFS</u> <u>CNF D-2</u>	<u>jstockwell@fs.fed.us</u>			
Title: <u>DEMO</u>		<u>446-2103</u>			
Name: <u>Darrel M Krum</u>	<u>Carbon</u> <u>County</u>	<u>dKrum@co-carbon.mt.us</u>			
Title: <u>DES Coordinator</u>		<u>446-1038</u>			
Name: <u>Alan Osborn</u>	<u>USFS</u> <u>CNF D-2</u>	<u>aosborn@fs.fed.us</u>			
Title: <u>DEMO</u>		<u>446-4522</u>			
Name: <u>Eric Chapman</u>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>echapman@mt.blm.gov</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Operations Supervisor</u>		<u>896-2918</u>			
Name: <u>Darrell Kunk</u>	<u>DNRC</u>	<u>dKunk@state.mt.us</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Program Manager</u>		<u>247-4406</u>			
Name: <u>Dave Western</u>	<u>Edgar Fire</u>	<u>962-3896 Chief</u>			
Title: <u>Edgar Fire</u>		<u>962-4440 Fire Hall</u>			
Name: <u>Greg Maddox</u>	<u>Belfry Fire</u> <u>Dept</u>	<u>664-3198 Chief</u>			
Title: <u>Chief</u>					
Name: <u>Tim Ryan</u>	<u>Beermek</u>	<u>ta5ryan@netscape.net</u>			
Title: <u>Chief</u>		<u>446-0165</u>			
Name: <u>Vern Adkins</u>	<u>Bridger</u>				
Title: <u>Chief</u>		<u>662-3554</u>			
Name: <u>Ronald R. Kotar</u>	<u>Red Lodge</u>				
Title: <u>asst. chief</u>		<u>446-1857</u>			
Name: <u>understanding CCSO</u>	<u>Carbon</u> <u>County</u>	<u>446-1234</u>			
Title:					
Name: <u>Tom Kuntz</u>	<u>Red Lodge</u>	<u>firechief@montana.net</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>		<u>855-7711 6198</u>			
Name: <u>Randall Toki</u>	<u>Robert</u>				
Title: <u>Asst chief</u>		<u>445-2473</u>			
Name: <u>Melvin Hoferer</u>	<u>Joliet</u>	<u>628-4052</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>					
Name: <u>Gary Hart</u>	<u>Fronberg</u>				
Title:					
Name: <u>Barb Beck</u>					
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Name:					
Title:					

Doc 405103

CARBON COUNTY
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan
Steering Committee/Public Meeting Agenda
December 9, 2004

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **Recap**
 - What is a PDM Plan?
 - Discussion and products of first meeting
- **Values at Risk**
 - Winter storm, wildfire, wind, hazmat incident, flood, human/livestock disease
- **Develop goal statements**
 - Winter storm, wildfire, wind, hazmat incident, flood, human/livestock disease
- **Develop objectives under the goals**
- **Wrap-up**

Comments/questions on meeting

Review project schedule
Next steps, next meeting

CARBON COUNTY CWPP/PDM PLAN

Steering Committee/Public Meeting

December 9, 2004, Joliet, MT.

Welcome and introductions

Participants introduced themselves and who they represented.

Recap

Contractor, Beck explained the purpose of the plan, what it will contain, and why the county is preparing the plan. She passed around an example of the draft plan for Custer County. She also explained that the development of the plan in Carbon County is being guided by this Steering Committee and the county Fire Council. Beck reviewed the work of the first Steering Committee meeting which was to list and prioritize potential hazards and identify critical facilities, and passed out copies of notes from that meeting.

Values at Risk

The group brainstormed what will be at risk for each of the priority hazards previously identified as a means to help in formulation of goals and objectives.

Severe Snowstorm

- Utility lines and loss of power
- Access to air support, transportation and thus medical facilities
- Communications system including repeaters
- Loss of life-both human and livestock
- Damage to residential and commercial structures
- Isolation from resources to assist
- Stranded students on school buses
- Resultant flooding

Wildfire

- Property
- Power
- Loss of life-both human and livestock
- Natural resources-timber, soil, air and water quality
- Tourism

Wind

- Power lines and outages
- Structural damage
- Loss of life (on the water, in the air, on the ground)
- Affects on wildfires

Hazmat Incident

- Air quality
- Water quality-irrigation, fisheries, drinking water

- Transportation stoppage and affect on commerce
- Loss of life-human and livestock
- Cost of clean-up
- Resources for response (security, evacuation, etc.)

Flood

- Loss of life-human and livestock
- Property damage and loss
- Infrastructure loss-sewer and water systems
- Transportation system loss-roads and bridges

Human/Livestock Disease Incident

- Economic impact from communicable livestock disease
- Affect on emergency response resources
- Affect on commerce from sick employees
- Loss of life

Draft Goal Statements and Objectives

Barb Beck explained the difference between goals, objectives and mitigation actions or projects. She provided an example of a goal statement from another PDM plan. The group developed goal statements for each hazard.

Goal One: Manage impacts of severe winter storms.

Ideas for objectives and projects related to winter storms.

- Maintain the power supply
- Alert and communications prior to and during storms
- Education on what to do in case of a storm
- Plan for resources to backup local resources if overwhelmed
- Have a shelter plan for stranded individuals (motorists and skiers)
- Work with state of Wyoming for snow removal assistance

Goal Two: Provide for public and firefighter safety in the event of unwanted wildland fire. (suggested by Jeff Stockwell) The group decided to have the Fire Council address this goal area.

Goal Three: Build and maintain capability to respond quickly to wind events.

Ideas for objectives and projects related to wind events.

- Education about building materials and mobile home tie-downs, etc.
- Enforce existing codes
- Give early warning (need weather radios in schools)

Goal Four: Minimize the frequency and impact of hazmat incidents.

Ideas for objectives and projects related to hazmat incidents.

- Education on response to a railroad hazmat incident, work with BNSF.
- Learn what BNSF is carrying and what response is needed.
- Properly equip responders.

Goal Five: Be prepared to respond to floods as a result of dam failure, flash floods, and river flooding (ice jams and seasonal floods.)

Ideas for objectives and projects related to flooding.

- Education about building in the floodplain.
- Early warning and awareness (e.g. dam failure)
- Monitor build up and issue warnings for ice jam flooding.
- Monitor runoff and issue warnings for seasonal flooding.
- Monitor runoff and precipitation events and issue warnings for flash floods.
- Make public aware of existing information sources.

Goal Six: Reduce and minimize the morbidity, mortality, and economic impact of human and animal disease in Carbon County.

Ideas for objectives and projects related to human and livestock disease.

- Education
- Immunization
- Response capability
- Legislation
- Disease surveillance and reporting, improved communications between Department of Public Health, Fish Wildlife and Park, Department of Livestock, etc.

Wrap-up

Barb explained that she would prepare meeting notes from the flip charts and would then draft up objectives for the goals based upon these ideas. There will be another meeting in January or February to go over the objectives, develop project ideas, and prioritize the projects. Participants were thanked for their attendance and encouraged to attend the third meeting or if unavailable to attend, to send a representative.

Attendance Sheet

Activity Carbon Co. PDM/Fire Plan
 Location Joliet, Mt. Date(s) Dec. 9, 2004
 Duration 2 hours

Name & Title	Affiliation	E-Mail Address & Phone#	Agency Use Only		
			H	M	T
Name: <u>NICK KISCH</u> Title: <u>JOLIET POLICE CHIEF</u>	Joliet	902-3133 (O) 818-1000 (C)			
Name: <u>Allen F. Nelson</u> Title: <u>CCD + Planning Board</u>	Planning Bd Conservation Dist.				
Name: <u>Tom Kraselitz</u> Title: <u>Beaumont Insurance</u>	Beaumont Insurance	446-2306			
Name: <u>Tommy Ballard</u> Title: <u>Red Lodge Public Works</u>	Red Lodge	446-1681 (O) 818-9557 (C)			
Name: <u>Lance Bourgeois</u> Title: <u>Sheriff</u>	Sheriff	446-1234			
Name: <u>Bob Walker</u> Title: <u>General Manager</u>	Beaumont Elec.	bowalker@starband.net 446-2310			
Name: <u>Charlie Buechler</u> Title: <u>Joliet Ambulance</u>	Town of Joliet	962-8567 (O)			
Name: <u>Teff Stockwell</u> Title: <u>USFS</u>	F.S.	jstockwell@fs.fed.us 446-2103			
Name: <u>C.C. So Tom Rieger</u> Title:	Sheriff	Box 230 Red Lodge MT 59068 446-1234			
Name: <u>Linda Stewart</u> Title: <u>Pub Health Nurse</u>	Public Health	PublicHealth@180.com 245-9167-9166			
Name: <u>Mark Bracich</u> Title: <u>Supt of Schools (Red Lodge)</u>	Schools	mbracz@montana.net 446-1804 EXT 210			
Name: <u>Barrel M Krum</u> Title: <u>Carbon County DES</u>	DES	dkrum@carbon.mt.us 446-1038			
Name: <u>Judy Steffan</u> Title: <u>CTV Ambulance, Bridger</u>	Bridger Ambulance	Mtgrana AOL.com 662-3478			
Name: <u>Ben Mahoney</u> Title: <u>Patrolman</u>	Joliet	Mahoneyj2@hotmail.com 902-3133			
Name: <u>Linda Schickman</u> Title: <u>Director, disaster services</u>	ARC Red Cross	Schickmanl@usa.redcross.org 245-3512			
Name: <u>Charlie Hanson</u> Title: <u>District Rep</u>	MT DES	desdists@int.net 245-9673			
Name: <u>RICHARD PRINGLE</u> Title: <u>RED LODGE POLICE CHIEF</u>	Red Lodge	redlodgedp@nii.net 446-3672			
Name: <u>Brian Beck</u> Title:	Beck Community	446-3628			
Name:					
Title:					

Page 4/22/05

Carbon County Fire Council Agenda
CWPP Planning
January 20, 2005

Quick refresher

What is a CWPP and PDM? Benefits

Update since last meeting

Meeting notes

Chief interviews

Draft assessment-hand out and explain contents

Mitigation Goals

Draft goals-hand out and discuss

Refine goals

Initial brainstorm of project ideas

Wrap-up

Answer questions

Request comments

Review schedule

Carbon County Fire Council CWPP Planning Notes January 20, 2005

Quick refresher

Barb Beck explained what a CWPP and PDM plan is and why the county is preparing them. The benefits include being prepared and lessening the impact of a disaster, becoming eligible for grant funds to do projects, and being eligible for assistance from FEMA in the event of a disaster. The plan is being developed on two parallel tracks, with the Fire Council guiding the fire plan and the LEPC/Steering Committee guiding the planning for all other hazards.

Update since last meeting

Barb handed out meeting notes. She thanked each of the chiefs for participating in interviews about their areas of the county since the last meeting. She handed out a draft of the fire assessment chapter. All participants were asked to review the portions of the chapter that addressed their area of the county and get back to Barb with any needed changes.

Mitigation Goals

Draft goals based upon input from the first meeting were handed out and discussed. The group was satisfied with the draft goals. Barb will insert whatever project ideas that came up during the interviews and contact the chiefs for additional project ideas.

Wrap-up

Projects will be identified and prioritized at the next regular Fire Council meeting in April. The goals for the PDM portion of the plan are being developed now and projects will be identified at the February LEPC/Steering Committee meeting to be held in Bridger.

Attendance Sheet					
Activity <u>CWPP Fire Council Mtg.</u>					
Location <u>Belfry, MT</u>		Date(s) <u>1/20/2005</u>			
Duration <u>2 hrs</u>					
			Agency Use Only		
Name & Title	Affiliation	E-Mail Address & Phone#	H	M	T
Name: <u>Alan Osborn</u>	<u>USFS</u>	<u>aosborn@fs.fed.us</u>			
Title: <u>Assistant Fire Mgmt Officer</u>	<u>Custer NF</u>	<u>406-446-4522</u>			
Name: <u>Hunter Bell</u>	<u>Runnel Dist #4</u>				
Title: <u>FIRE CHIEF</u>	<u>- Roberts</u>	<u>406-670-5233 cell</u>			
Name: <u>Jeff Stockwell</u>	<u>USFS</u>	<u>jstockwell@fs.fed.us</u>			
Title: <u>DEMO FS</u>	<u>Beartooth District</u>	<u>446-2103</u>			
Name: <u>MARIE Heppeler</u>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>mheppeler@blm.gov</u>			
Title: <u>ASST CENTER MGR</u>	<u>Billings Dispatch</u>	<u>896-2900</u>			
Name: <u>Chris Shelton</u>		<u>cshelton@blm.gov</u>			
Title: <u>Billings Dispatch Ctr mgr</u>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>896-2901</u>			
Name: <u>Eric Chapman</u>		<u>echapman@mt.blm.gov</u>			
Title: <u>BLM Fire Operations</u>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>896-2918</u>			
Name: <u>Gary Hunt</u>	<u>Fromberg Rural</u>	<u>ghunt@istatetruck.com</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>	<u>Fire Dist #3</u>	<u>406-57323-690-2341</u>			
Name: <u>Tim Goldsberry</u>	<u>Brigder Fire</u>				
Title: <u>ASST CHIEF</u>					
Name: <u>Vern Adkins</u>	<u>Brigder Fire</u>				
Title:		<u>662-3440</u>			
Name: <u>Dave Wetstein</u>	<u>Edgar Fire</u>	<u>208-3935</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>		<u>962-3896</u>			
Name: <u>Tom Hunter</u>	<u>Red Lodge</u>	<u>firechief@montana.net</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>	<u>Fire</u>	<u>855-6198 (cell)</u>			
Name: <u>Melvin Hoferer</u>	<u>Joliet Fire</u>	<u>628-4052</u>	✓		
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>					
Name: <u>Greg Maddox</u>	<u>Belfry Fire</u>	<u>664-3198</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>					
Name: <u>TIM RAN</u>	<u>Bearcreek</u>	<u>446-0165</u>			
Title: <u>Fire Chief</u>	<u>Fire</u>	<u>ta5ryan@netscape.net</u>			
Name: <u>Ron Kotar</u>	<u>Red Lodge</u>	<u>446-1957</u>			
Title: <u>ASST. CHIEF</u>	<u>Fire</u>				
Name:					
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Doc 4/23/05

CARBON COUNTY CWPP/PDM PLAN
Steering Committee/Public Meeting Agenda
Bridger Fire Hall
February 15, 2005

Welcome/introductions

Quick Review

- Purpose of PDM Plan
- Where we are in the planning process
- Today's tasks

Goals and Objectives

- Statements drafted using input from last meeting
- Review preliminary list of projects identified at last meeting

Project identification

- List additional project ideas under the objectives
- Resources-who to talk to for additional project ideas

Project Prioritization

- Prioritize projects in high, medium, and low bands

Wrap-up

- Schedule for finalizing the plan
- Where to find copies
- How to comment
- Thank you for your participation!

CARBON COUNTY CWPP/PDM PLAN
Steering Committee/Public Meeting Notes
Bridger Fire Hall
February 15, 2005

Welcome/introductions

The agenda was reviewed and participants introduced themselves.

Quick Review

Barb Beck explained what a CWPP/PDM plan is and why the county is preparing the plan. The county has an opportunity with the assistance of BLM to go through this planning process to become more disaster resistant. The plan will allow the county to compete for project funds and to be eligible for post-disaster assistance. This is the third of three PDM Steering Committee meetings to guide plan development.

The Fire Council is still working in a parallel effort on projects and priorities for the fire projects. The draft fire plan goals were presented for information.

Goals and Objectives

The group reviewed the goal statements for the PDM portion of the plan that had been drafted at the previous meeting. They then looked at the objective statements prepared using the input from last meeting. Barb handed out copies of the draft goals, objectives, and preliminary list of projects for discussion.

Project identification

The group went through each goal and objective, adding and deleting projects.

Project Prioritization

Projects were prioritized as follows. Priorities were based upon the judgment of the group as to the potential for loss of life and the probability of each type of disaster occurring in the county.

The top priorities of those present were determined to be: backup generators, dam flood warning system, preparation for hazardous material incidents, and sheltering plans.

Wrap-up

Barb explained the schedule for finalizing the plan. The draft plan will be available to the steering committee and the public for comment before being finalized, around the end of May. Copies will be placed at county libraries and can be e-mailed to participants who request it.

Participants were thanked for their time and ideas in this process and encouraged to review and comment on the draft plan when it becomes available.

Attendance Sheet							
Activity <u>Carbon Co. CWPP/PDM mtg.</u>							
Location <u>Bridger</u>		Date(s) <u>2/15/05</u>					
Duration <u>2 hrs</u>							
Name & Title			Affiliation	E-Mail Address & Phone#	Agency Use Only		
					H	M	T
Name:	<u>Marvin Dukart</u>			<u>Marvind@Starband</u>			
Title:	<u>Ring Supt</u>		<u>Beartooth Elk</u>	<u>.net</u>			
Name:	<u>Thomas Rieger</u>			<u>446-2310</u>			
Title:				<u>425-1854</u>			
Name:	<u>Thomas Rieger</u>		<u>Carbon Co</u>	<u>446-1234</u>			
Title:			<u>Sheriff's office</u>	<u>446-1239</u>			
Name:	<u>Vern Adams</u>		<u>Bridger FD</u>				
Title:	<u>Chief Bridger</u>						
Name:	<u>Darrel M Krum</u>		<u>DES</u>	<u>446-1038</u>			
Title:	<u>Carbon County DES</u>			<u>dKrum@carbon.mt.us</u>			
Name:	<u>Jeff Stockwell</u>		<u>DZ-CNF</u>	<u>jstockwell@fs.fed.us</u>			
Title:	<u>USFS DZ-CNF</u>						
Name:	<u>Lindsay Beagle</u>		<u>Stet EMS</u>	<u>linzbeagle@aol.com</u>			
Title:	<u>V.P. Solist Ambulance</u>			<u>962-3582</u>			
Name:	<u>Andy Stoffan</u>		<u>CTV Ambulance</u>	<u>662-3498</u>			
Title:	<u>EMT CTV Ambulance</u>			<u>MTgrance AOL</u>			
Name:	<u>David Davidson</u>		<u>CARBON CO.</u>	<u>446-1595</u>			
Title:	<u>COMMISSIONER</u>						
Name:	<u>Bill Pearce</u>		<u>Beartooth Hospital</u>	<u>946-0057</u>			
Title:	<u>Support Services Director</u>						
Name:	<u>Bush Beck</u>		<u>Beck Consulting</u>				
Title:							
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NEWS ARTICLES

Disaster mitigation plan underway

■ Recollections of previous incidents sought

In 1918, Carbon County experienced a disastrous flood of the Clarks Fork River. The Carbon County Journal of June 19, 1918, reported "Carbon County has been for the past week in a state of semi-isolation insofar as traffic with the outside world is concerned because of the swollen streams that have poured their waters over the lowlands."

The June 1918 flood wiped out the wagon bridge over the Yellowstone at Laurel. Red Lodge was without mail service for four days, a Burlington freight engine sank in the river, the Orchard Canal and Sand Creek Ditch suffered severe damage, water was three feet deep in the Mason bottom near Silesia, and all communications with the community of Chance were cut off. The Montana Power Company line to Fromberg went down, leaving the town both in the dark and without water for three days. Losses estimated from the flood of 1918 were \$200,000, quite a sum in that day.

Floods, wildfires, winter storms, and droughts are the primary natural disasters Carbon County has experienced through time, but the effects of major events elsewhere have also been felt in the county. One of these was shaking from the Hebgen Lake earthquake in 1959. In addition to the shaking, County

Commissioner David Davidson remembers the spring at Montauqua going dry following that earthquake. Carbon County also received a dusting of volcanic ash from the Mount St. Helen's eruption in May of 1980.

Each natural disaster has the potential to take lives, destroy property, and interrupt transportation and commerce. And, natural disasters are costly. For all of these reasons, Carbon County is joining other counties across the country to prepare a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. "Preparing the plan is a requirement for eligibility for emergency relief funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency should we experience a natural disaster in the county," said County Commissioner John Prinkki. He said the project is made possible by funding from the Bureau of Land Management, supplemented by a 10% county match.

The pre-disaster mitigation planning effort will be combined with the preparation of a wildfire protection and mitigation plan. Beck Consulting will be preparing the plan under the guidance of an expanded Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) with representation from elected officials, local and county law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire protection, disaster emergency services, county public

health, Beartooth Memorial Hospital and Health Center, public works, businesses, the insurance industry, transportation, utilities, and the public school system. "We realize that we can't prevent natural disasters from occurring, but we can better prepare for them so that losses are minimized," stated County DES Coordinator, Darrell Krum.

The first meeting of the LEPC/Steering Committee is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 28. The location of the meeting is tentatively set for the county courthouse in Red Lodge. The County Fire Council, consisting of the fire chiefs from around Carbon County, will be briefed on the project at their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting in October. Meetings to develop the plan will be scheduled around the county over the next nine months and anyone interested in participating is encouraged to do so.

As a part of developing the plan, past disasters need to be documented and analyzed. "I'm really interested in hearing from longtime residents who have memories — even if they are just vague memories — of floods, earthquakes, wild fires, landslides, subsidence, slumps, or storms," stated Barb Beck. Anyone with information to share or questions about the project is encouraged to contact Beck at 446-3628.

Sept. 16, 2004 Carbon County News

Potential disasters occupy planning group

How many wind storms have we had in Carbon County over the past 50 years? How much damage should we expect from a typical large winter storm? What is the probable interval of major wildfires in the county?

How many major disease incidents have we had historically in Carbon County? And, what are the critical facilities in the county for public health and safety, and continuity of government?

These are just a few of the questions the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Steering Committee wrestled with at its first meeting on Tuesday, September 28.

Representatives from county and local law enforcement, the county

public health department, the county planning board and conservation district, the Montana Department of Transportation, Disaster Emergency Services, the Red Lodge Fire Department, and the Forest Service started the work of preparing the county to be disaster resistant.

The potential natural disasters of most concern to the Steering Committee were winter storms and wildland fires. Hazardous material spills, wind events, floods, livestock and human disease, and dam failures were also discussed and will be addressed in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan is being prepared using funds grant-

ed to the county by the Bureau of Land Management, and administered through the Beartooth RC&D. In addition to the PDM plan, a community fire plan will be prepared.

According to Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator, Darrell Krum, "This project is possible because Montana Disaster Emergency Services got together with the BLM to fund one plan instead of requiring two different, but very similar plans."

The plan will be required in order for the county to receive assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) if there is a natural disaster in the future. And the plan will

identify projects that will be eligible for funding from a variety of agencies.

All was not gloom and doom at the meeting, however, as one participant humorously observed, "I won't care. By then, I'll be retired!" while discussing the possibility of volcanic activity in the area around Yellowstone National Park in the coming millions of years.

If you would like more information about the plan, please contact Barb Beck at 446-3628. Beck Consulting has been hired by the county to work with the Steering Committee in preparing the plan over the coming six months.

A draft plan will be available for public review sometime in the spring.

CARBON CO. NEWS P.1

9/30/2004

CCNews
Oct. 28, 2004

Community fire planning underway

The Carbon County Fire Council spent part of its regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 21 in Bridger providing input for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The wildfire plan is being prepared for the county by Beck Consulting with a grant from the Bureau of Land Management. The goal of the plan is to bring together all of the agencies and members of the public with an interest in fire management to identify fire risks and hazards and then develop actions that can be taken to address those risks and hazards.

The fire plan is being prepared in conjunction with the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, which will look at all other natural disasters and hazards.

At the meeting, fire chiefs from around the county and the Forest Service Fire Management Officer identified locations on a map where they get the

most fire starts and what the causes of those fires are. The causes of wildfires in the county range from lightning to highways to recreational users to railroads and others.

Then, along with representatives of the Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Bureau of Land Management, the council talked about factors in the county that can increase fire starts or make the fires more severe. These factors include terrain, winds, drought-killed trees, and rural residences, among others.

The Fire Council will work further on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan at a meeting in January. A draft plan addressing both fire and other natural hazards will be available for public review in the spring.

For more information on the plan or to find out how you can participate, please contact Barb Beck at 446-3629.



USFS Fire Management Officer Jeff Stockwell draws ignition locations on the map.

Protecting against disaster topic of meeting

The second meeting of the steering committee guiding the planning process for the county's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan has been scheduled. The meeting will occur at the County Hospitality Room in Joliet on Thursday, Dec. 9, from 2-4 p.m. The plan is being prepared to make the county more disaster-resistant.

"Through this planning process we are trying to come up with ways to lessen the potential impacts should a natural disaster occur in the future and if we do have a disaster at some

point, we want to be able to tap into the resources of the federal government for help if we need to," said Barb Beck, planning consultant.

At the first meeting, participants identified potential natural disasters that could impact Carbon County such as floods, fires, drought, and others, and then prioritized them. At this second meeting, the group will set goals. Since the first meeting, Beck has been researching historical occurrences of the disasters and the vulnerability of the county to each type of disaster.

"Each of these hazards has the potential to cause injury, loss of life, and certainly economic consequences," says Beck. "We've learned by looking at other counties in the state for example, that the ongoing drought is costing millions of dollars in lost production and livestock sales. Obviously this is no secret to affected producers, but it's really eye-opening when you start putting numbers to losses in a county."

According to DES Coordinator, Darrell Krum, "A natural disaster has the potential to affect all county

residents whether it's through loss of property and income, or even injury."

Beck added "We're purposefully moving these meetings around the county with the hope that people will attend one or more meetings and give us their thoughts."

Anyone with an interest in the subject is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate. For more information on the plan or the meeting please contact Carbon County Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator, Darrell Krum at 446-1038, or Barb Beck at 446-3628.

Dec 2, 2004 CENews



Contractor Barb Beck, right, addresses the disaster planning group.

Steering committee hopes to lessen impacts of a disaster

The Steering Committee charged with guiding development of Carbon County's pre-disaster mitigation plan worked on goals at a meeting in Joliet last Thursday.

Participants at the meeting included public health, city and county law enforcement, ambulance services, public works, public schools, fire, insurance, utilities, the conservation district and planning board, Disaster Emergency Services, and the Red Cross. The plan is being prepared to make the county more disaster resistant and to ensure that the county is eligible for both project funds prior to a disaster and assistance following a disaster.

The meeting on December 9 was the second one for the committee. It focused on identifying what values could be at risk during certain types of disasters, and the goals needed to address those risks. For example, if Carbon County experienced a severe winter storm, utili-

ties, transportation, commerce, residential and commercial property, and the lives of people and livestock could all be at risk in the affected areas. In the event of a wildland fire, all of the above, plus natural resources such as air quality, drinking water, soil erosion, timber, and range improvements could be at risk. Although the group was not predicting the sky will fall, listing potential risks was helpful in terms of identifying goals. Sheriff Bourquin commented that the county has considerable resources for responding to disasters, but may need additional assistance in some cases. In the event of a human disease outbreak, Linda Stewart pointed out that "county resources could quickly be overwhelmed."

Planning contractor, Barb Beck will now take the work of the group and from that, refine the goals and objectives. The next step for the committee will be a meeting in Bridger later this winter, to review the

draft goals and objectives, and add and prioritize projects that need to be done. The community wildfire protection plan is being developed on a parallel track guided by the County Fire Council. The next meeting of the Fire Council is the third Thursday in January.

The draft plan, scheduled to be completed next spring, will contain goals to help the county be prepared for winter storms, wildland fires, floods, high winds, hazardous material spills, and human and/or livestock disease incidents. According to contractor, Barb Beck, "We know we can't prevent most of these types of disasters, but by planning ahead, we can minimize the impact and losses associated with them."

Anyone interested in making comments or learning more about the plan can contact either Carbon County Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator, Darrel Krum at 446-1038, or Barb Beck at 446-3628.

County Fire Council to meet Jan. 20 at Belfry

The Carbon County Fire Council will hold its regular quarterly meeting in Belfry on Thursday, Jan. 20, at the fire hall starting at 7 p.m.

The Fire Council consists of the municipal and rural fire chiefs in the county, the Forest Service, BLM, and DNRC. In addition to regular business, the council will be discussing progress on the community wildlife protection plan and developing goals for that plan.

Anyone interested in obtaining information about or providing input to the fire plan is encouraged to attend the meeting or contact planner, Barb Beck, at 446-3628.

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County Fire Council discusses goals

The Carbon County Fire Council held its quarterly meeting in Belfry on Thursday, Jan. 20 at the firehall.

In addition to regular business, the council discussed progress on the community wildlife protection plan.

Contractor Barb Beck of Beck Consulting presented the following draft goals for the fire plan.

- Protect the public from loss of life and injury due to wildland fire.
- Protect firefighters from loss of life and injury due to wildland fire.
- Maximize protection of communities and property from wildland fire.
- Maximize protection of property from wildland fire that is not located in a community.
- Ensure new developments are designed for adequate fire protection.
- Ensure an effective, coordinated response to wildland fire incidents that covers the entire county.
- Recognize fire as a natural process in ecosystem maintenance on lands where appropriate.

The next step will be to identify projects that can be done under each of the



The Carbon County Fire Council sets goals at its regular meeting Jan. 20.

goals. The projects will range from education efforts to hazard fuel reduction projects.

The Fire Council will discuss and prioritize projects at their next meeting, scheduled for April 21 in

Bearcreek. Preparation of the fire plan is being done in conjunction with planning to address all natural hazards in the county.

Anyone interested in obtaining information about or providing input to the

fire and disaster mitigation plan is encouraged to attend the April meeting, contact planner, Barb Beck, at 446-3628, or contact their local fire chief.

Disaster mitigation meeting set

The third and final public meeting of the process to prepare a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for Carbon County will be held at the fire department in Bridger, on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. The county is preparing the plan to protect people, property, and infrastructure from the inevitable natural disasters that can occur here including floods, winter storms, summer storms, and drought. A community wildfire protection plan is being prepared in conjunction with the mitigation plan.

The meeting on Feb. 15 will focus on listing and prioritizing projects or actions that can be taken to achieve the following goals developed at the last planning meeting held in Joliet in December.

- Goal One: Manage impacts of severe winter storms.

- Goal Two: Build and maintain capability to respond quickly to wind events.

- Goal Three: Minimize the frequency and impact of

hazardous material incidents.

- Goal Four: Be prepared to respond to floods as a result of dam failure, flash floods, and river flooding (ice jams and seasonal floods.)

- Goal Five: Reduce and minimize the morbidity, mortality, and economic impact of human and animal disease in Carbon County.

One or more objectives are being developed for each goal. The next step will be to come up with projects or actions that can be taken to meet the goals, and the final step is to prioritize the projects. A project could be something like installing lightning rods on communications towers or re-sizing a culvert that has consistently washed out during past flash floods. Following the meeting, the contractor hired by the county will add the project ideas to the goals and objectives.

Once the community wildfire protection chapters of the plan have been completed and added to those addressing other potential

disasters, the draft plan will be available for public review at the county courthouse and county libraries. It is anticipated that this will be sometime in April.

Comments on the draft will be incorporated and the plan will be submitted to the County Commission, Town of Bear Creek, Town of Bridger, Town of Fromberg, Town of Joliet, and City of Red Lodge for adoption. It must then be approved by the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.) Once the plan is approved, Carbon County projects in the plan will be eligible to compete for state and federal funds.

Anyone with an interest in disaster planning and/or ideas for projects is encouraged to attend the upcoming meeting. For more information you can contact the Carbon County Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator, Darrell Krum, at 446-1038, or the project contractor, Barb Beck in Red Lodge, at 446-3628.

Disaster planning priorities identified

Ten individuals representing a variety of interests across the county including fire, Emergency Medical Services, Disaster and Emergency Services, the Beartooth Hospital, Beartooth Electric Cooperative, the County Commission, and the Forest Service met at the Bridger Fire Hall on Tuesday to discuss projects that will help the county become more disaster-resistant. "Avoiding or lessening the impacts of disasters is the reason for preparing the plan" according to county DES Coordinator Darrell Krum.

Generators for back-up power, dam flood warning, preparation for hazardous material spills, and the ability to shelter people during disasters rated the highest among the projects identified at the planning meeting. The priorities were arrived at after considering the potential impact of each of the disasters and the likelihood of each occurring.

Education, awareness, and monitoring of conditions were approaches common to several of the goals that will be included in the plan. The goals deal specifically with winter storms, wind events, hazardous material spills, flooding,

and human and animal disease incidents.

During the discussion on wind events, Undersheriff Tom Rieger, pointed out the need to address large rotten mature and/or dead trees in many communities endangering structures and people. "A lot of people don't have the ability or can't afford to take these trees down, but they are an accident waiting to happen." A project idea will be developed in the plan to address this need.

Snow removal during winter storms was another topic of discussion. Commissioner Davidson pointed out that "newer residents of the county are frequently unaware of the snow removal priorities." To address this problem, the county will continue to publish its snow removal policy each fall and look into distributing it to the real estate community so that it can be passed on to prospective buyers. With knowledge of the policy, residents can plan ahead.

Any county resident can be vulnerable to extreme weather events. Darrell Krum, DES Coordinator, pointed out that weather radios have become very affordable. "With these radios you can



Contractor Barb Beck, top left, leads the discussion at the Bridger meeting.

get the latest weather information." A project will be developed for the plan that would purchase weather radios for all schools and for households as well.

Once the plan is completed, the county will be eligible to compete for grant monies to do the projects identified and will be eligible for federal assistance if there is a major disaster. The last major natural disaster for which federal assistance was received in the county was the Willie Fire in 2000.

Tuesday's meeting was the third of three held around the county to gather input for the pre-disaster mitigation plan. A similar effort is underway to address wildland fire issues. Using the input from the meeting and input from the County Fire Council, contractor Barb Beck will prepare a draft plan. The draft plan will be available for public review around the end of May.

Anyone interested in learning more about the planning effort or offering input should contact either Darrell Krum at 446-1038, or Barb Beck at 446-3628.

Recent flooding topic at Joliet Town Council

The Joliet Town Council met in regular session May 16. Among items of business, according to unofficial minutes:

In open discussion, Kathy Berscheid spoke to the council about the recent flood on Carbon Ave. She requested a comprehensive disaster plan be established by the town and Carbon County. Discussion followed. Mike Berscheid spoke to the council about the safety of public utilities and traffic flow during a flood. Numerous Joliet citizens spoke to the council about all the community help with the flood, and thanked the Public Works Department, the Joliet Police Department and the Red Cross for their help.

Charles Beuchler spoke about the amount of flood damage. The water line going to the water take was damaged slightly and repairs will be made when the level of the creek goes down. The sewer plant was flooded by the dike — a large amount of water entered the facility and valves were opened. DEQ was notified of the overflow.

The fire hydrant at Harwoods was damaged and will be replaced. John Francis spoke to the council and Mayor Gauger about East Carbon Street grading, and also thanked the town employees for help during the flood.

Barb Beck presented the Carbon County Community Wildfire Protection and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. She explained details of the plan. The council discussed the need for plan for a disaster situation. The draft plan will be available soon at Town Hall and the Joliet Public Library.

Engineer Doug Whitney and Public Works Director Charles Beuchler reported to council the different options to increase the water output of the Fire Station well. Discussion followed. The council instructed Beuchler to obtain costs on putting a camera in the well to find the problem. Bill O'Connell, Montana Rural Water, spoke to council about an option to fix the well.

A number of options were discussed regarding homeowners' responsibility for paying unpaid utility bills of renters.

It was announced that the Railway sewer project will begin this month.

Beuchler reported some is putting sticks and rocks in manholes again. This can cause a great deal of damage, and residents are asked to report any incidents. On another topic, Beuchler was instructed to obtain bids for weed spraying.

Among items of business for the next meeting are lighting district, employee manual, Fire Station well, utility deposits, Railway Sewer project, CDBG projects, 2005-06 budget.

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County Fire and Disaster Plan out next week

Carbon County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, Darrel Krum, announced that the draft Community Wildfire Protection Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is currently being reproduced and will be available for the public to review starting next week. "A lot of work by many county residents—especially emergency services folks—has gone into getting this draft plan pulled together. We sure appreciate everyone's efforts."

The plan has been developed over the past six months based upon input from a citizen Steering

Committee, the local emergency services committee, and the Carbon County Fire Council. The purpose of the plan is to think about what natural disasters the county might be susceptible to and determine what can be done ahead of time to lessen impacts of disasters when they do occur. The disasters of most concern to those who participated in the planning process and thus the focus of the plan surrounded disasters related to wildfires, flooding, hazardous material spills, and severe winter storms, wind events, and human and/or animal disease inci-

dents.

According to contractor, Barb Beck, "Each time we've been ready to put the draft out for comment, we've had another disaster. First we had the flooding, then the Beartooth Highway slides. I sure hope that's it for a long while!"

Copies of the draft plan will be available at the Bearcreek, Bridger, Fromberg, and Joliet town halls, city hall in Red Lodge, the Carbon County Administration building, the libraries in Bridger, Joliet, and Red Lodge, and the Beartooth RC&D in Joliet. Comments on the

draft will be accepted from June 15 through July 15. You can submit comments in any form by contacting Barb Beck at 446-3628 or Darrel Krum at 446-1038.

"Once we've received and incorporated the comments, the plans will go to the county commissioners and the town and city governments for adoption," said Beck. Completing the plan will allow the county and communities to compete for grant funds to do projects identified in the plan and will also allow the county to be eligible for post-disaster relief should we experience another major disaster.

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